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Testimony by Senator Bob Duff
PROPOSED BILL 5868, AN ACT CONCERNING
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TEAMS
February 18, 2009

To: The Hon. Eric Coleman, Co-Chairman, The Hon. Brendan Sharkey, Co-Chairman, The Hon. Jonathan Harris, Vice Chairman, The Hon. Tom Drew, Vice Chairman, The Hon. Len Fasano, Ranking Member, The Hon. Bill Aman, Ranking Member and members of the Planning and Development Committee

I would like to thank the members of the Planning and Development Committee for hearing PROPOSED BILL 5868, AN ACT CONCERNING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TEAMS.

Connecticut has a maze of state and local agencies and permitting processes which have to be negotiated before any economic development can take place. This bill would create economic development teams made up of state and local officials who would help potential businesses and developers obtain all of the necessary permits and permissions and streamline the process for quicker start-up of these projects.

Connecticut has become so highly regulated that it is difficult for businesses to maneuver through the permitting process. As a consequence, economic development is delayed, deferred or lost and the economic ramifications to the state could be devastating in the current environment. We need to be able to encourage positive and immediate growth to help turn around current economic conditions.

I respectfully urge the committee to give this legislation every consideration. Thank you for this opportunity and please feel free to contact my office at 240-0414 if you have any questions.